

SOUTHWESTER

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Community Council, Inc.

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September 1993



SWNA Announces Scholarship Awards



by Darryl Holt

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly is at it again this year, helping Southwest youngsters financially in their college endeavors.

The SWNA held its sixth Annual Scholarship Awards program at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where some 25 students received financial assistance for college. Following is a list of the recipients and the colleges where they will be attending:

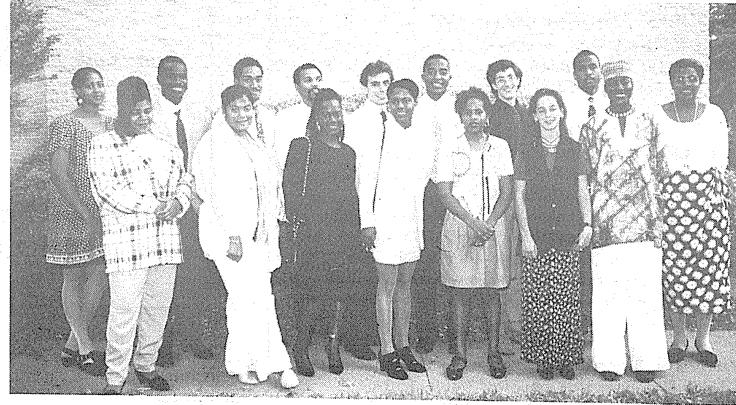
Ateya Ball, Howard University; Jameela Ball, West Virginia State University; Todd Barron, Morehouse College; Ahmed Bean, West Virginia University; Michelle Dasher, Hampton University; Elizabeth Early, Hampshire College; Mary Early, Bennington College; Damon Gordon, Delaware State College; Miya Gray, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; N'Dieye Gray, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Nikkia Johns, University of Virginia; Arnice Jack, Howard University; Chanda McMahan, Norfolk State University; Tony Murray, Wesleyan University; DeQuendre Neely, New York University; Tekia Parson, Virginia Commonwealth University; Danette Purvis, University of the District of Columbia; Chekesha Rashad, Grambling State University; Malonda Richard, College of Santa Fe; Shantella Sherman-Edwards, Jackson State University; Gregory Triplett, Florida A&M University; Geoff Weiss, University of Maryland; Paul Weiss, Catholic University of America; David Wormack, St. Augustine College; Melinda Zellar, Spelman College.

The program has benefitted many Southwest youths and college students for years and continues to be a leading contributor in providing college funds for the young members of the community.

The program is a showcase of students attending colleges and universities. This year's recipients attend college at home and afar. They attend schools as far north as Vermont, south as Florida, and as west as New Mexico.

When the guests first arrived at the Church, there was a photo display by Ahmed Bean. The formal program began with an opening prayer by Rev. John Talbot of St. Augustines Church. John Brown, the SWNA president, gave some remarks and the history of the Scholarship program was shared with the audience, given by the Master of Ceremonies.

Then, the program was turned over to the teenagers. Paul Weiss, playing trumpet, teamed with his musical group to play several different pieces. Greg Bargeman, who works at the Southwest library, wrote the play "Jack's Awakening," which told of the importance of people who have "made it", giving back to their community. Some of the recipients acted in the play and they certainly got across their message.



Recipients who attended Awards Program: Front—Chekesha Rashad, Chanda McMahan, Ateya Ball, Jamella Ball, Tekia Parson, Mary Early, and Malonda Richard; Back—Melinda Zellar, Todd Barron, Tony Murray, David Wormack, Geoff Weiss, Gregory Triplett, Paul Weiss, Ahmed Bean, and Danette Purvis

Photo by Ron Cooke

ANC Comments

1. Endorsed legislation to rename the District Building and 13½ St in memory of Council Chairman John A. Wilson.
2. Voted to support all of the recommendations made by the Office of Planning regarding amendments to the Comprehensive Plan affecting the 2D area, with emphasis on the Commission's opposition to increasing building height limits along the waterfront.
3. Voted to request a meeting with Merrick Malone, head of the Department of Housing and Community Development, to discuss the recently released, DHCD-sponsored, "Southwest Waterfront Master Plan."
4. Recognized Stanley and Margaret Williams, founders of the SW Coalition "Orange Hats," for their dedicated service to the Southwest community.
5. Heard Gwen Allen, appearing on behalf of Department of Public Works Director Betty Francis Hager, explain what DPW was doing to solve a number of problems in the 2D area, including illegal dumping, problem that she was appearing in place of DPW Director Betty Francis Hager.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the ANC will be 7:30 pm, Monday, September 13, 1993 at 400 I Street SW (in the basement of Westminster Church). The agenda, which is subject to last minute changes, now tentatively includes presentations by the DC Supportive Employment Project and the Office of Peoples' Counsel.

Mr. MacIver introduced the speaker. Ms. Ellen Yeager, Assistant Principal from Woodrow Wilson High School, spoke a few words. Many of the students had attended Wilson. It was felt by the committee that having a speaker

con't pg. 4

Coach Hudgins and the Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club, #4

My name is Rickie Peake and I am 16 years old. I've been with the Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club #4 (M.P.B. & G. C. #4) for 6 years. Recently, I interviewed the coach, Alvin Hudgins (Hudge). I asked him a few things about "#4". He told me that the M.P.B. & G.C. concluded its basketball season with one of its teams winning the city championship and with the other one losing. M.P.B. & G.C. will begin the annual football season and fall/winter clubhouse activities very soon. There will be three football teams this year - 75 lbs., 95 lbs., and 110 lbs. Football season begins August 16, 1993.

A question which I wondered about was how long has the coach at #4? So, I asked him this question. He replied "I have been affiliated with #4 for 22 years. First I was a member and now I am a staff person."

Another question which interests me is what changes in the youth has the coach seen. Are there many differences between the kids of today and those when he first started? "As a former member and now as a Program Director, I think a lot of the young people have lost community pride, while gaining more knowledge of the streets. That's why it's important that we provide constructive alternatives to the streets, spiritually and academically."

And lastly, "what sport is your favorite to coach?" "I have had the opportunity to coach several sports - basketball, football, soccer, tennis and baseball. My favorite is basketball because I get to coach the younger members."

Participating at #4 has meant a lot to me. Soon their spring/summer programs will be over and a new season will be underway.

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man,
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--Dana Heyliger



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**RIVER PARK AND THE
SW COMMUNITY HOUSE**

The River Park Mutual Homes, Inc., a cooperative development in the Southwest area, launched a fund-raising drive during the month of June to benefit the Southwest Community House. This was accomplished through its Members' Council and its Southwest Affairs Committee. Other involved members who were not in the picture include Hobby and Sorab Modi of the Members' Council and Frances Pickering, co-chair of the S.W. Affairs committee. In addition, the area coordinators, Marguerite Gilstrap, Helen Codding, and Wilbur Whitsee and many volunteer solicitors helped make this effort a success. The result was that \$1600.00 was raised. Ken Davis of River Park presented a check to Clinton Anderson, Executive Director of Southwest Community House.

Over the years, the public-spirited members of River Park have participated in Southwest affairs in many ways. Several serve on boards and committees, provide tutors, mentors and scholarship assistance to local youth and contribute generously to local social services. For more than twenty-five years, River Park has been in the forefront in its effort to make a difference in our community.

However, River Park is not content to rest on its laurels. As long as an infant needs formula, a school child needs a tutor, a teen needs a mentor, an adult needs Medicaid or food stamps, River Park will be there. Also, as long as the agency's Director needs a roof repair, a Youth Program Director or more adequate space, they will be there. They have been apprised of a major fund-raiser being planned by the agency Board of Directors this fall. Because they are determined to make a difference and preserve this vital community resource, they have already pledged their support for this effort. They will return and we hope that others will too.

St. Matthew's After School Program

The After School Program at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church has served over 25 children and their families within the heart of the Southwest community for over four years.

The program is in part supported by the Church Association of Community Services, and the students and staff have received further support from members of St. Matthew's congregation, but they also receive large contributions from members of the community.

One of the largest supporters of the St. Matthew's After School program is Mr. Samuel Pope who is the co-owner and proprietor of the "Head-To-Toe" Unisex Salon in Waterside Mall.

Mr. Pope has been a merchant in the Southwest community for nearly 10 years. He started with a franchise of "Roy Rogers" restaurants and started "Head-To-Toe" about two years ago.

Mr. Pope explains how he became involved with St. Matthew's. "I have been in the Southwest community for about nine to ten years and from the time I was involved at St. Matthews. I was more than happy to get involved when I learned about the program. Once you get involved its not something that you can leave, its something that you have to continue to work with."

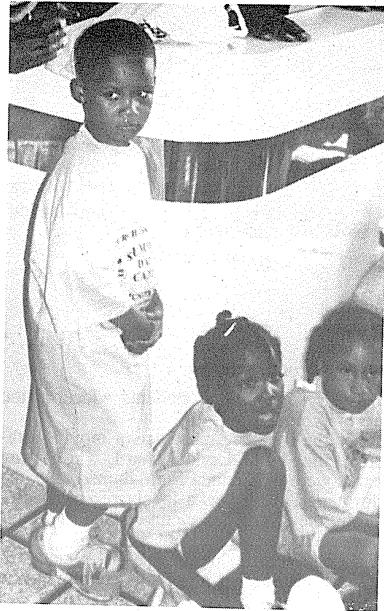
Mr. Pope and his staff began to help the children of the After School program known as "Project Spirit" by sponsoring a special workshop on Valentine's Day of 1990. The workshop dealt with tips on proper dress code, personal hygiene and proper hair care and was a great success with the students and parents. As a result, Mr. Pope saw a further need to help the children and began to invite the children to his shop for informal rap sessions and for free salon services for those in need.

In 1991, Mr. Pope became involved with fundraising for "Project Spirit" after funding was cut and the program was reduced to three days (instead of five days). Many activities such as rummage sales and raffles were held with moderate success. Finally, Mr. Pope saw a special talent that the students had for fashion modeling and decided to plan a fundraiser around it. After about a year of hard work, a fashion show fundraiser which featured the students of "Project Spirit" as well as a group of various artists was held at the Holiday Inn Capitol [Hill]. It raised enough money to provide audio-visual equipment and educational supplies for St. Matthew's.

Pope adds that, "I hope that more business in the Waterside Mall area could become involved with the program. It's hard to get merchants to participate, but we are gaining more support". For example, the after school program has joined a network made up of other programs within the Southwest community and recently, other businesses have pledged to take interest in the activities of St. Matthew's After School Program.

This summer, "Project Spirit" has added a Summer to its growing list of services of the Southwest community. Mr. Pope was very vital to the program by helping to raise funds, recruiting volunteers, and continuing to counsel students when necessary.

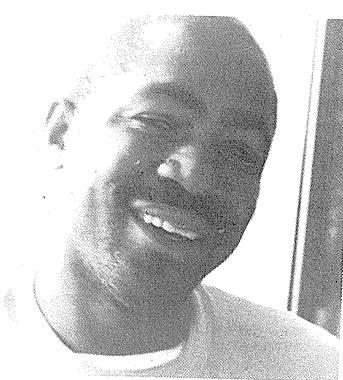
Many people are impressed with the growth of the children in the after school program. Antonio Johnson, a first time volunteer with St. Matthew's enjoys working with the children as a tutor and a chaperone. He commented that, "this is a great opportunity for the children to learn more than just recreation skills during the summer".



James King, Jr. and other students of St. Matthew's camp enjoy a Workshop from Mr. Pope

For the future, Mr. Pope is in the midst of planning several activities for the after school program which includes a field trip to a local amusement park. He is very happy to be involved with the students as a friend and mentor. Mr. Pope is proud of all of his young friends and comments that "it makes me proud to know all of the children that I work with especially when they begin to become involved with other positive projects. By knowing that all of the children will grow to great things make me feel good to work with them".

Mr. Pope reflects on the great amount of time that he spent with the children of St. Matthew's. He has been amazed with "how the children can pull together and produce quality entertainment even at the last minute. I've learned so much about tolerance and patience and I am proud to be with the program and I respect all of them." However, Mr. Pope was especially thrilled when a "Project Spirit's" annual awards program, he received a plaque for being named "Volunteer of the Year".



Antonio Johnson, Parent, Parent and volunteer of summer camp

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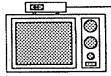
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Tony Murray, Chanda McMahon, Geoff Weiss, Tekia Parson, Todd Barron, Mary Early, and Gregory Triplett.

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Awards, con't from pg. 1

who knew some of the students added to the sense of "community".

After the speaker, there was a moving dramatic reading by Malonda Richard. The closing remarks were by Chanda McMahon. After the performance, there was a lovely reception prepared by the committee members and the families of the recipients.

Dale MacIver, a longtime SWNA member, considers this year's program as continuing the success of past years. "I thought the play was real good and it made the point," he noted. "We have to give back to the community."

Mr. Bargeman is an actor on the side, having appeared in Spike Lee's Malcolm X. He says he enjoys working with young people and is always willing to lend a hand to the SWNA which he considers a great organization. "I've been working with a lot of community organizations," Bargeman said, "and I think SWNA is one of the most productive I've been involved with."

Recipients said the money will come in handy for things like transportation and purchasing books.

One recipient, Greg Triplett, considers himself fortunate to be a resident of this closely knit community.

"I'm glad I live in Southwest," Triplett said. "I don't know of any other section in DC where young people get this kind of support. We need this."

Triplett, who is an engineering major at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida, said he will be living off campus this year and the money will come in handy.

The hardworking committee want to thank all of those who have contributed, especially the Portals and the Wally Branton C.D.C. If anyone wants to donate, the P.O. Box number is 70481.

The committee is looking forward to next year.

Darryl Holt, a graduate of Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina, studied post graduate journalism at the University of South Carolina; he is currently interning at the Afro-American newspaper. He is a former SWNA scholarship recipient.

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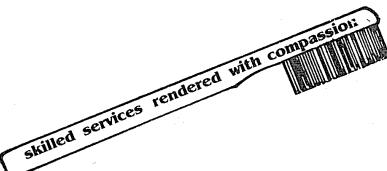
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HINES-LEE OPERA ENSEMBLE
STRIKING KEY-NOTES

by Jerry Blasenstein

Making a significant contribution to the music world, and headquartered at River Park on Delaware Avenue, S.W., is the Hines-Lee Opera Ensemble. The ensemble, organized and incorporated in Washington, D.C. in 1988, is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of operatic and culturally enriched music for all. This is perpetuated through varied musical programs throughout the Metropolitan area. The Company also acts as a springboard for talented artists, presenting them in concerts and musical programs, while nurturing their innate abilities.

In 1982, when the ensemble was not a formally organized entity, their first Gala Operatic Concert was held, featuring Metropolitan Opera artists Myra Merritt and George Shirley. Since then, other concerts have featured work by many renowned artists, including William Brown, Gregory Hopkins, Carmen Balthrop, Valerie Eichelberger, Henry Burroughs, and Robert McFerrin. Today, the majority of board members consist of professional musicians whose success has burst past local boundaries and spread across the country. Chairperson Willis A. Hines was Choirmaster at St. Lukes Episcopal Church for over 35 years. Co-chair Sylvia Olden Lee has been a coach and accompanist at several concerts, both here and in Europe. Dr. Charlie Wells, President of the Ensemble, is the Chairperson of the Mathematics Department at Ballou High School. Charlotte W. Holloman, coach/instructor at the University of the District of Columbia and Marvin Mills, Director of Music at All Souls Unitarian Church, round out the membership of the initial board. There are a number of other professional men and women who make up the current board.



Beth Hall and Madeline Hall tending to their garden



WSG - L-R Barbara Murray, Camille Cook, Davie Webb, Beth Hall, Madeline Hall, Elana Strom, Helen Frey and Jim Early

A BLOOMING GOOD TIME

Members of the Water Street Community Garden are having a wonderful gardening season this summer. With just the right amount of showers and lots of sunshine, all members are happy with their crops of tomatoes, vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

The Water Street Community Garden is located on the grounds of Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church and Temple Micah at 600 M Street, S.W. The garden began four years ago when Saint Augustine's and Temple Micah donated use of the land for 12 garden plots. Judy Tiger, executive director of Garden Resources of Washington, better known as GROW, provided much needed assistance in getting the garden established.

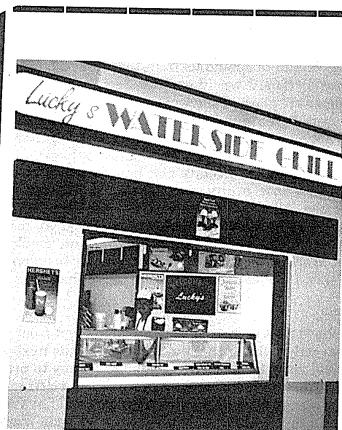
GROW facilitates the establishment of community gardens throughout the city by using vacant available land for these gardens which are for the benefit of the volunteer members. GROW is in the process of establishing gardens for the homeless also.

The Water Street Community Garden has been so successful with a constant waiting list, that members are seeking additional land for another garden.

In the picture are some of the 1993 members of the Water Street Community Garden.

Anyone interested in establishing a new garden should contact Judy Tiger at 202-234-0591. Anyone who would like to be put on the membership waiting list for the Water Street Garden should call Jim Early, 202-488-3355.

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VOTERS GUIDE**September 14, 1993 Election For Chair Of The District Of Columbia Council**

Candidates were asked to limit their answers to the questions to 400 words whether answered separately or in a single statement, and limit "activities" to 25 words. Answers to questions are presented unedited. Candidates certified by the Board of Elections and Ethics were required to file petitions signed by 3,000 registered voters residing in at least five of the eight wards of the city. The candidacy of Vincent Orange was not certified by the Board of Elections and Ethics. The BOEE decision was upheld by the DC Court of Appeals. This GUIDE may be quoted or reproduced with credit to the DC League of Women Voters. — Grace Malakoff, President

CANDIDATES

CHARLENE DREW JARVIS, Democrat, Occupation: Ward 4 Representative, Council of the District of Columbia. **Education:** Roosevelt High School (D.C.); Howard University (Masters); Oberlin College (B.S.); University of MD (Ph.D). **Activities:** Chair of the D.C. Committee on Economic Development, National Co-Chair of the Clinton/Gore Presidential Campaign, 1991-92 member of Leadership Washington.

EMILY FITZSIMMONS, Socialist Workers, Occupation: Aircraft cleaner for United Airlines. Member of International Association of Machinists, local 1759. **Education:** State University of New York at Albany World College West Petaluma CA -International Development. **Activities:** Defense of abortion clinics, solidarity with anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, active in labor movement, activities opposing US embargo of Cuba.

MARIE DRISSEL, Democrat, Occupation: PhD, Candidate; ANC Chairperson—Sheridan Kalorama. **Education:** BA, Sociology, Maryland University; MBA, Finance, The American University; PhD, Candidate, Public Administration & Law George Washington University. **Bio:** Third generation Washingtonian. Activist in DC politics for twenty-one years in finance, housing, tax issues. Lobbied the District for better financial reporting, accountability; improved property assessments, appeals.

LINDA W. CROPP, Democrat, Occupation: At Large Member, D.C. Council; Guidance Counselor. **Education:** B.A. and M.A., Howard University, Wash. D.C. **Activities:** Governing Boards of the Travelers Aid Society, Girl Scouts - National Capital, Junior Achievement, and the United Negro College Fund Advisory Board.

DAVID A. (DAVE) CLARKE, Democrat, Occupation: Law Professor, D.C. School of Law. **Activities:** Committee Against All Killing; Committee for [Assault Weapon] Strict Liability; Southern Christian Leadership Conference Board; Calvary Baptist Church.

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- Improving Council oversight of the city's finances to promote financial stability.
- Identifying further cost saving measures and reductions in the city's payroll to maintain a balanced budget.
- Implementing a more aggressive economic development & job creation strategy, both locally and regionally, to increase revenue to the city.
- Coordinating the efforts of our police, other city agencies and school system to create a hostile environment for drug use and sales.
- Insisting on aggressive enforcement of our child truancy laws coupled with intervention strategies for troubled youth to return our children to the classroom.
- Working aggressively to retain federal agencies in the District.
- Improving the racial climate in the District.

FITZSIMMONS:

As Council Chair my top priorities would be building solidarity with unionists on strike and those workers fighting to defend their jobs and living standard. I would support the mobilizations of women and men defending abortion clinics against Operation Rescue's attacks. And I would mobilize working people and youth to oppose Washington's military adventures abroad, such as their bombings of Iraq and Somalia and intervention in the former Yugoslavia.

The true nature of these "humanitarian" actions is becoming more clear - to control and dominate the people and resources of those areas of the world. The shooting down of unarmed civilians in Mogadishu has a parallel

CANDIDATES' FORUM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1993
5:30 PM RECEPTION
6:30 PM PROGRAM

DISTRICT BUILDING 1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
ROOM #9 FIRST FLOOR

SPONSORS: District of Columbia League of Women Voters,
DC employees of WASHINGTON GAS, Federation of Civic Assns,
Citizens' Assns

in the District, where police have shot down 14 people since the beginning of this year alone. I would use the office of chairman to mobilize working people in demanding indictments and prosecutions of those police guilty of such brutality.

DRISSEL:

Hold Oversight Hearings on the following:

1. The budget process. The public should know what hurdles businesses, community groups, and the Council faced when attempting to gather budget information for TY1994 and TY1993 Supplemental. Selective, late, and no access to information must stop.

My top priority will be to educate and encourage ANC's, businesses and community groups to be ready in fall 1993 for the winter 1994 budget hearings. The citizens need to clearly tell us what is working and what is not working.

2. The Department of Finance and Revenue. Our cash cow is in serious trouble. This city has serious revenue problems. This department must be top notch.

3. Sole source contracting. The Inspector General's report on contracting should be publicly aired.

4. Program evaluation procedures. When legislation is passed there are no performance standards included to hold departments accountable. Many citizens believe there is little to no program evaluation activities in the DC government and no one really knows why things are not working well.

Advocate the following:

1. Amending The Financial Reporting and Accountability Act to require a citizen/expert financial panel. Citizens need to have the District's "monthly bank statement" and 5 year goals presented in an manner which is understandable.

2. Retaining finance and revenue functions within the Committee of the Whole.

CROPP:

• Productive, cost-efficient D.C. Government services, which will reflect program priorities and wise use of available funds; the goal is to provide good service to citizens.

• Cooperation among Council members, and between the Council and the Mayor — these conditions are necessary if the citizens are to reap the full benefits of a co-equal partnership between a strong independent legislative and executive branch of government;

• A thorough and comprehensive examination of the base budget, with the objectives of eliminating redundant and duplicative services, as well as progressing toward a "Program budget" structure; a goal of fiscal solvency and improvement of the quality of life for citizens.

• To conduct a comprehensive assessment of D.C. Government activities, to include: budget and accounting systems, cost reduction and productivity improvement in the delivery of services, pension and retirement systems, and stimulating economic development.

• The establishment of closer cooperative ties with Washington area governments, especially in the areas of public safety, economic development, and placement of the unemployed and homeless.

CLARKE: SEE END OF GUIDE**#2. WHAT BUDGET MEASURES WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO RESOLVE THE ACCUMULATED DEBT, INCLUDING THE UNDERFUNDED PENSION PLAN, AND THE PROJECTED IMBALANCE BETWEEN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES.****JARVIS:**

• The accumulated deficit was eliminated through the Council's authorization of a deficit reduction bond issuance. As Council Chair, I will demand the fiscal discipline in the District's finances to insure the repayment of the bondholders.

• In the year 2004 the District faces a \$7 billion unfunded pension liability for police, firefighters, teachers and judges. A large portion of this pension deficit resulted from the failure of Congress to adequately endow the pension fund prior to Home Rule. As recommended by the Rivlin Commission, the long-term solution requires the extension of the current level of federal pension funding of \$52 million from 14 to 45 years.

• There must be a reformulation of the current pension system to insure self-sufficiency of the fund for future pensioners.

FITZSIMMONS:

For the Democrats and Republicans talk of balancing the budget simply means making working people pay for the economic crisis of the capitalist system. Workers are laid off, education, health care and other social services are cut or contracted out to private companies in order that millions of dollars can be made available to pay the city's wealthy bondholders. As Chair of the City Council I would use my office to mobilize working people in this city to demand the federal government make massive funding available for programs to protect working people against the economic depression.

Immediate measures are needed to unite us in our struggles and to defend us from the worst effects of the economic crisis. I would support demands of the labor movement to shorten the work week with no cut in pay, that would create millions of jobs; and extend affirmative action in employment, housing, and education.

The current mayor and City Council only disagree on tactics, that is, how many and how fast to lay off city workers—how many and how fast to cut social programs. All of the proposals to "raise more revenue" and reduce the budget deficit are aimed at making working people pay for the bankers' and employers' crisis. Working people need our own party to defend our interests. I would use my office to begin that fight.

DRISSEL:

I believe that merely balancing the budget from year-to-year only puts off the real issues until the next year. The real issue is the city has enough money to provide "world class services" and programs for its citizens. To solve these structural problems the city will have to put its workers on notice... poor work equals no job. Working for the District is not a entitlement. We cannot continue to tax everyone out of the City and not provide services.

CROPP:

Short term measures — implement the provisions of the FY 93 and 94 budgets, initiate the beginnings of program budgeting, require specific financial reports from the Executive, curtail borrowing (especially to meet cash flow problems), reach agreement with the Federal Government regarding the federal payment formula, and conduct a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of D.C. Government operations.

Long term measures — establish a funding formula for the D.C. schools, to include average daily attendance and performance indicators; establish automated management systems; insist upon White House support in initiating pension plan negotiations with the Congress; consider a wide-array of tax incentives to stimulate business development within the city; and, seek regional agreements regarding transportation of hardcore D.C.unemployed to available job sites in the suburbs.

Sponsored by DC League of Women Voters Education Fund

CLARKE: SEE END OF GUIDE

#3. DO YOU FAVOR INCLUDING HOUSING IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA AS CALLED FOR IN THE PRESENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

JARVIS:

Yes. I support a critical mass of housing in the downtown area as called for in the present comprehensive plan.

FITZSIMMONS:

Housing, like health care, is a right. Working people spend 30% or more of their income on housing. I favor reducing rents and mortgages to no more than 10% of one's income. I support the construction of decent and affordable public housing so no one is homeless.

DRISSLE:

I am clearly in favor of housing in the downtown area as called for in the present comprehensive plan. I state this from every angle possible. We need middle and upper class tax payers—we must expand the tax base. On an international and national basis the financial institutions regulatory bodies adopted risk adjusted ratios fully implemented on January 1, 1993. The name of the game is housing. All financial institutions have to hold half of the capital required for housing versus commercial building. On a personal basis, I moved into one of those "SP zoned" buildings targeted to bring taxpayers downtown. It was and is a wild success—filled with taxpayers and voters.

CROPP:

Yes, I do favor further development of downtown housing, as both an economic development and environmental enhancement. Downtown needs a neighborhood of people.

CLARKE: SEE END OF GUIDE

#4. DO YOU FAVOR THE PROPOSED 76,000-SEAT STADIUM?

JARVIS:

Not unless the appropriate Environmental Impact Statements are carried out. The scope of the impact statements must be expanded beyond the stadium to include Barney Circle and the Children's Island.

FITZSIMMONS:

No answer.

DRISSLE:

I support environmental justice. No neighborhood should be a consistent dumping ground. I support real environmental impact statements. Good EIS's bring a level playing field for neighborhoods. At the same time we must keep our national football team. The goodwill that they bring to the City is immeasurable. The answer is renovation of RFK. Financially, the new stadium will be a major drain. No one has estimated the business tax revenues lost when corporations deduct the expense of sky-boxes. (Note: deduction may be limited in Clinton budget proposals.) Income taxes from permanent and temporary jobs will not equal this loss.

CROPP:

I favor efforts to retain professional football in the District, within reasonable limits. This could include expanding the present stadium or building a new one, as long as the interests of District taxpayers, adjacent neighborhoods, and the environment receive appropriate consideration.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SUPPLIED BY CANDIDATE DAVID A. "DAVE" CLARKE:

The following narrative addresses your questions. We have a first-term Mayor. We need a Chairman with experience who will cooperate with the Mayor but who is independent enough to stand on his own when necessary.

The fiscal crisis demands something from everybody. The city's workers have already made a contribution—many with their jobs. We cannot let them go and then hire others. I support further reduction of the work force through a hiring freeze and retraining employees in nonessential positions to fill vacant essential positions.

Currently we are paying over \$290 million in retirement costs. In 11 years, our unfunded pension liability will reach \$9.7 billion. Everybody must be called on to contribute to the fund's solvency. Contributions from employees and the DC government may have to be increased, COLAs may have to be adjusted, and a special effort must be made to convince the Congress to pay for the unfunded liability which it created and/or to extend the deadline. A new system must be established for new employees.

We are currently paying over \$300 million in debt service for past capital projects like One Judiciary Square and are borrowing so much that, in six years, we may reach the level where the Charter effectively says that we can borrow no more. Then our children will not be able to build anything for our grandchildren. We need a capital review system, with public participation, to prioritize the projects for which we borrow money. Taxpayers need to be told on their bills how much is to pay past debt.

A recent financial audit found \$77 million in possible

liability by the city for law suits. A legal audit needs to identify the causes of this liability and to recommend corrective actions including assessment of at least some of the costs against the agencies causing the problems to inspire greater care.

The profit must be taken out of killing. I organized Referendum 006 to preserve the law to make producers of assault weapons subject to law suits. However, the Police Department is failing to advise victims, or their families, of what kind of weapon was used. Without that information, no suits can be brought. I will work to force the revelation of that information.

I support linking downtown development to the production of housing and produced over 2000 units through that process while on the Council.

I do not support the new stadium as proposed.

• • •

VOTER REGISTRATION is closed between August 16 and September 29. **LISTS OF REGISTERED VOTERS** are available in branch libraries by ward, and citywide at the Martin Luther King library.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS — Registered voters who cannot get to the polls on Election Day, September 14, 1993, because of illness, physical disability or travel, may vote by absentee ballot.

There are two ways for District voters to vote by absentee ballot:

In person: At the Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE) Suite 250 441, Fourth St. NW beginning Monday, August 30, and ending Monday September 13 at 4:45 PM. An emergency absentee ballot may be cast on September 14 by 8 PM at the BOEE office.

In writing:

Requests for absentee ballots to be mailed must be made in writing and must reach the Board office not later than September 6. They must include the voter's name, address (as on the voter's registration), the address where the ballot must be mailed, the reason for the request of the ballot, and the voter's signature. The ballot must be postmarked by September 13.

One individual may not request a ballot for another.

QUESTIONS? CALL 727-2525 FOR INFORMATION INCLUDING HANDICAPPED ACCESS PREGUNTAS? TELEFONO 727-2525

POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

THANKS TO SUPPORTERS OF THE DC LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND, AND FOR THIS GUIDE TO DC EMPLOYEES OF WASHINGTON GAS, GIANT FOOD, C & P TELEPHONE, CAPITAL SPOTLIGHT, CURRENT NEWSPAPERS, AND THE SOUTHWESTER

Initiative #37, the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Constitutional Amendment Proposal Act of 1992

This Initiative requires the Mayor to notify the District's Congressional Delegate, in writing, that a majority of District voters request that the Delegate propose a Constitutional amendment directing the government to:

- Abolish all nuclear warheads by the year 2000
- Pursue a good faith effort to eliminate war, armed conflict, and military operations
- Actively promote international peace and nuclear disarmament
- Convert weapons industries into constructive, ecologically beneficial peacetime industries; redirect those resources to meet human needs, including housing, health care, agriculture, education, and environment. This amendment will become effective upon ratification of a comparable provision by the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Statement SUPPORTING Initiative 37 by Hilda Howland M. Mason, Member-at-Large, Council of the District of Columbia:

To oppose Initiative 37 would be to say that there should be no citizen discussion of the circumstances in which the United States and the former Soviet Union (Commonwealth of Independent States) might jointly lead nuclear disarmament efforts, might convert their crippling war-machine economies into housing, food, health care, education, and environmental restoration.

Initiative 37 allows District voters to send a message to Congress that we want the United States to work together with the CIS toward worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons, and to earmark the tax dollars saved to serve human needs. It expresses the view that an appropriate way to accomplish global nuclear disarma-

ment is for the United States and the Commonwealth to lead by example.

The Initiative does NOT eliminate the discretion of the District's Delegate in Congress to propose a measure containing additional conditions, such as agreement by others besides the Commonwealth.

What Initiative 37 DOES is create an incentive for ordinary citizens to develop solutions to urgent problems that political leaders have not yet solved.

Since the matter concerns the country as a whole, it is appropriate for the people of the District to speak to their Delegate with a strong voice that cannot be ignored, through their votes in favor of Initiative 37.

Do we continue to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on weapons we can only hope will never be used, or do we use that fabulous wealth to build more schools - homes - hospitals - and promote more meaningful careers for our young people?

A strong vote in favor of Initiative 37 will send a message that the voters of the District favor serious commitment to a less dangerous, more humane world.

Statement by Philip A. Fleming, President, Lawyers Alliance for World Security (LAWS), 1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 OPPOSING Initiative 37:

Initiative #37, though well-intentioned, is flawed procedurally and substantively. Substantively, it would be unwise for the U.S. government "to abolish all nuclear warheads by the year 2000" unilaterally. The US should not eliminate its nuclear deterrent until there is (1) a multilateral convention banning all nuclear weapons; (2) a substantially strengthened non-proliferation regime in place, and (3) agreement by the nuclear states, implemented by the UN Security Coun-

cil, to place the nuclear deterrent under international control.

LAWS supports deep cuts in existing nuclear arsenals well beyond START I and START II, but it is fanciful to believe that pressure for a U.S. Constitutional amendment would enhance the likelihood of achieving any of the foregoing steps, much less by a certain date.

In addition, LAWS believes it would be unwise to abolish the US defense capability by converting "weapons industries into constructive, ecologically beneficial peacetime industries". While reasonable people may differ about the size of the Pentagon budget, which major weapons systems to cancel and which military forces and bases to downsize or close, US leadership in world affairs depends, in part, upon a technically superior, competent armed force.

The procedural flaws include, among others:

U.S. Constitutional provisions should not be contingent upon the action of other sovereign states. Multilateral treaties are the appropriate vehicle for conditionality.

Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine are separate sovereign states, and each is in possession of former USSR ICBMs; the CIS is no longer a viable governmental entity.

The likelihood of Congressional support of co-sponsors for such an amendment is virtually nil.

A "sense of the District of Columbia" resolution expressing support for rapidly accelerating the reduction of all weapons of mass destruction, presented to the D.C. City Council, could, on the other hand, be a useful expression of the legislative concern in the District about the need to reduce all nuclear arms in the post-Cold War world.

BE INFORMED...

then exercise your Right to vote!

The right to take part in government affairs is an important right.

You can effect change by voting to elect people and voting on issues that will impact the future of the community. You have a choice but only if you vote!

Giant is pleased to sponsor the special Voter's Guide. We hope you will read it thoroughly so you can make informed decisions when you enter the voting booth.

We've been an involved corporate citizen of the community since 1936. By participating in public affairs, you can also be involved! We urge you to vote!



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

That's my Giant

Announcements

The *Southwester* receives many announcements of free (or almost free) happenings. The following is a listing of some of these services.

Hospice Care of D.C. volunteer training will be offered on two consecutive Saturdays, Sept. 11, & 18 from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. For more information, call Hospice Care at 202/347-1702.

D.C. Hotline volunteers are needed. Training starts Sept. 7. Call Soraya Seirafi, 202/223-0020

Summer Quest '93 Celebration of the end-of-summer with performance by ventriloquist/comedian Willie Brown & Woody, Tuesday, Aug. 31 at 10:30 am, SW Branch Library, Wesley Pl. & K St., 202/727-1381

Substance Abuse Ministry Second Baptist Church, Friday, Sept. 24, Place & Time to be announced, Director - Rev. Perry L. Radford, 202/842-0233

SW Waterfront AARP will meet at St. Matthews Church, 3rd & M, on Wed., Sept. 15 from 12:30-2 pm call Alberta White at 202/554-5503

D.C. Water & Sewer Odor Complaint Line if you have a question or comment about the a sewer or water smell, call 202/767-8424

The Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Hay-rah will be holding services for the high holy days. Please contact Mary Wellever at 703/351-9637 for further information.

Special Election - September 14 All registered voters, regardless of party affiliations may vote in this election.

Please submit all meeting announcements to the *Southwester* Box, behind the circulation desk at the SW library. Don't be the one to have a meeting and "no-one comes." Let your neighbors know about upcoming events.

Safe as I Go

Personal Safety Resources

Apple Juice is the acronym that I use to describe the ten most dangerous areas in any town, U.S.A. It stands for Automatic teller machines, Public restrooms, Public transportation, Laundry rooms, Emergency highway repair, Jogging, Underground parking garages, In stairwells, Coming home, and Elevators.

During the next few months, I will be sharing a number of safety tips that have proved useful in crime prevention. I will do this by taking my acronym apart one letter at a time, and talking about the kind of attack to be aware of, and what to do about it.

A, is for automatic teller machines. Attacks at automatic teller machines in some areas of town have reached epidemic proportions. So much so, that every once in awhile authorities use public service announcements to warn citizens not to use them. An attack at an automatic teller machine is most likely to be a hold-up, not really a violent assault. Here is my list of suggested safety tips.

Tip 1: Whenever possible drive to the A.T.M. The reason is because the attack itself might not happen at the machine, it may happen a few blocks away when you have your confidence back are not being as careful (when in truth you've been staked out and followed).

Tip 2: Never walk down alleys to use A.T.M.s that by there very nature were designed for car business.

Tip 3: Use A.T.M.s that are well lit and busy intersections, even if it means being a little inconvenienced and going out of your

Stay tuned for the "Safe as I Go" workshop date which will be at Amidon in October

way to find one. If the situation calls for it, stay in your car until you see someone else enter the A.T.M. then go in behind that person. Don't forget if it's late at night and you feel uneasy you can always ask the person in front of you to hang around while you do your transaction.

Tip 5: Once you get your money ball a portion of it up into a tight wad, that way if you are attacked you

can let the assailant see you throw it as far away as possible, this could buy you some time to get away.

Tip 6: Be aware that attacks at A.T.M.s statistically happen on off-paycheck periods around the 5th and the 25th of the month. This is when most people run out of money and are more prone to use the machines, thus criminals tend to stake them out on these times of the month.

Tip 7: Never under any circumstance count your money in public. After all, even if you've been short changed there is nothing that the machine can do about it!

As always, if there are safety topics you would like me to discuss please direct your question to "Safe As I Go" Personal Safety Resources Inc., P.O. Box 962, Arlington, VA 22216, Attn: Rod Batiste.

CHARLENE DREW JARVIS

Today's Leader with Tomorrow's Vision

ENDORSEMENTS

Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2

The Greater Washington Board of Trade, PAC

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees,

AFL-CIO, D.C. Council 20

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia, (DOCPAC)

District of Columbia Nurses Association

Gertrude Stein Democratic Club

The Hotel Association of Washington

D.C. Association of Realtors

Adams-Morgan Business Association

"If we are going to stem the exodus of the middle class to the suburbs, and begin to lift the burden of fear for personal safety and security among our citizens, we must begin to rebuild our city's reputation and neighborhood commercial corridors to make our city more livable for our residents and our business community."

Inner Power

i am a tree.

sick with a cancer grown over
with 1000 skins.

i have lived the forever and now....

i stretch out my branches toward the light.

i cry out for my flowers that do not renew me.

my strength, sapped by my own fruit.

they too have fallen from Pride.

my children, raise your eyes
and walk into the sun.

--Dana Heyliger



An Inclusive Reform Teaching Congregation

*Temple Micah extends a warm invitation
to the following Open Houses:*

Friday, September 3 and 10, 8:15 p.m.
Selichot Services, Saturday, September 11, 10:00 p.m.
For High Holy Day Information call 202 554-3099.

600 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20024
Located on Metro Green Line—Waterfront Station.
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between 4th and 6th Streets.

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Daniel G. Zemel, Rabbi Teddy Klaus, Music Director

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**An Eventful Summer**

The Children's Church at Friendship Baptist Church was implemented to focus directly on the children and their spiritual growth. The children are in a structured atmosphere and give guidance on those items of a spiritual nature. Since its inception, it has grown. Under the leadership of very qualified person, Ms. Sherron Battle, Ms. Ethel Norman, Mrs. Francine Woodland and Mrs. Frances Gillespie. They meet every Sunday at 11:00 am-12:00 noon.

The Powerhouse Ministry would like to thank the Southwest Community for coming out to the Family Day Picnic. Your showing was very encouraging to our hearts. Councilwoman Charlene Drew Jarvis stopped by to share with us in our festivities. The Powerhouse ministry will be sponsoring a spiritual retreat to Ocean City in August.

We will be celebrating the 118th Anniversary and the 12th of the pastor, Rev. William H. Montgomery. The Anniversary festivities will commence on Monday, September 27, 1993 and end Monday, October 11, 1993 with a banquet celebration.

Native American Service

On September 12th at 11 am, the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 400 I Street, SW will conduct an outdoor worship service celebrating the traditions and customs of the Native American culture. They will create a pow-wow circle. An important aspect of the service will be the emphasis on reverence and care of nature under the guidance of the Great Spirit. A service with the same theme was conducted two years ago and enjoyed an unusually large attendance from visitors around the city who have a Native American heritage. All are welcome to the service and the picnic afterwards.

by Dana Winner

The New Crimesolvers

A group of approximately 7,000 Transcendental Meditation (TM)-meditators were in Washington, DC June 7, to July 31. Meetings were held at various places in the city. Transcendental Meditation (TM) was founded by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. It is a technique for promoting better health, eliminating stress, unfolding full mental potential and improving the quality of life.

The group's goal was to decrease violent crime in the nation's capital. Their idea was "if large groups of people meditate throughout the nation's capital twice a day for a two-month period, it will reduce the city's stress level, which will result in a significant drop in crime rate." The idea is that stress causes crime, therefore, if stress is controlled, crime decreases.

Total violent crime in Washington, D.C. dropped sharply during the fifty-five days of the TM crime reduction campaign. Now that experts in the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi Program have left Washington, D.C., it is expected that the rate of violent crime will increase again based upon previous research on similar crime reduction projects.

This writer suggests that you, as a concerned citizen, can urge your government to provide funds to support this crime-prevention technology. Also private citizens are asked to step forward to help finance, this venture. For more information about this Natural Law Technology please write to "Citizens for a Crime-Free DC; 5000 14th St., N.W.; Washington, DC 20011.

- Verlyn Brown

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH EVENTS

A one-day retreat for Girls was held at Second Baptist Church Southwest on Saturday, July 31, 1993. The one-day retreat was aimed at girls between the ages of 9 and 18. The girls attended workshops on topics such as rock music videos, college life, improving study habits, preparation for a job search, and health and hygiene.

Speakers for the day included students who currently attend college, an R.N., from Veterans Hospital, public school teachers and other professionals. The girls also viewed and discussed the videotape "Sex, Lies, and the Truth", produced by Focus on the Family Ministries and recently shown on Lifetime Television. There was also time during the day for crafts and manicures.

An Oratorical Contest was held on Sunday, August 8, 1993. There were 16 contestants in three categories: elementary, middle school, and senior high. Grand prize winners received \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bonds. They were De-Shay Chancellor, a fourth grader at Strathmore Elementary; David Bradley Godbolt, a fifth grader at Drew Middle School; and Garfield Gardner, a senior at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Two preliminary workshops were held to help contestants prepare and deliver their orations. The Youth Choir of Mt. Airy Baptist Church was the special guest for the afternoon.

Both of these were in preparation for the church's annual "Hazel M. Gardner Youth Talent Extravaganza" to be held Sunday, September 19, 1993 at 4 pm. The theme for the project is "My Body - God's Temple."

Currently, a third project - a slide show presentation - is in production. It is entitled, "The Difference" and involves two main characters who must decide to either follow the popular crowd or behave in the manner in which they have been taught. The slide show presentation will be shown during the September program.

The original idea for the annual Youth Talent Extravaganza was conceived by the Church organist, Hazel M. Gardner. She felt it would be a good way to showcase and encourage the talent among the young people in the congregation. Last year's project was an overwhelming success and the church is looking forward to an outstanding program this year.

Carrie Dorsey, Coordinator
Beulah Newton, Reporter/Clerk
Dr. H. Joseph Franklin, Pastor

Dream Comes True

After residing at Channel Square apartments (325 P Street, S.W.) for almost 17 years, Southwest civic leader Thelma Jones bid farewell to her friends there and took a quantum leap across the street to River Park Mutual Homes, fulfilling one of her greatest life long dreams of becoming a homeowner.

In June, a jubilant crowd attended her housewarming, an event that truly personified her. In a brief acknowledgement to her guests, Thelma indicated how pleased she was to have so many of her friends celebrating part of her dream. "I am pleased to have guests here representing virtually every facet of my life since childhood.

Highlights of the housewarming included the singing of "Bless This House" by colleague Helen Toni and the blessing of each room in the house by John Thayer Talbott, Rector, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. Adding to the delight of the festive event was some delicious food!

The Southwester staff congratulates Thelma Jones on her home ownership and for making another sound investment in the Southwest community.

**PSAT AND SAT REVIEW SESSIONS
AVAILABLE**

WHO: All students of Second Baptist Church Southwest and those students who "live" in the Southwest community and will be in des 7, 8, 9, 10, or 11 by September, 1993. If I have never taken the Preliminary to the Iolastic Assessment Test [PSAT], this information is for you!

WHAT: Tutoring sessions in MATH and GLISH in preparation for PSAT and SAT ms.

WHEN: Saturdays - September 25, October 9, and 16, 1:30 - 3:30 pm.

WHERE: Southwest Branch of the D.C. olic Library, Wesley Place, S.W.

In order to benefit from the lessons, YOU JST ATTEND ALL SESSIONS! The SAT I be given Saturday, November 6, 1993. otice for the PSAT date will be forthcoming in the schedule is firm.

This tutoring is free to you through the Schoship Committee of Second Baptist Church thwest; however, there is a \$5 registration . Dr. Eugene Williams, Director of the Test rovement Program for the District of Columbia is in charge of these sessions.

If you have an interest in PSAT or SAT ring, please contact Vernice Howard, 202-4-0868, Scholarship Committee Chairper, by September 1, 1993, giving your ne, address and telephone number. WE N ONLY ACCOMMODATE 35 STU- NTNS! So please RUSH!!

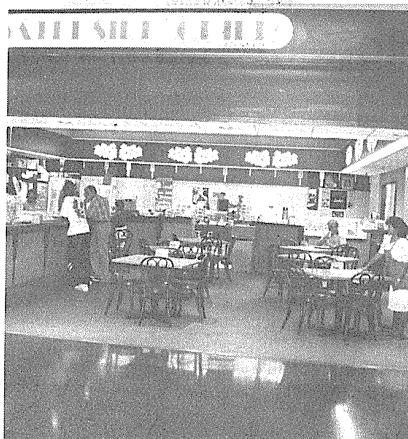


"Time Out"

Church Friends

Church Friends is a one-on-one program at Westminster Presbyterian Church in which the entire group joins in a monthly luncheon and activity. In July they had "Time Out" (for Others), a picnic followed by a service project for the neighborhood elderly. The youth planted petunias and asters in window boxes and presented them to the Seniors at 1200 Delaware Ave., S.W. Each colorful planter included a homemade greeting card created by the members of the younger set.

During the picnic, an interesting discussion of the purpose of the service project and the necessary steps to guarantee the nurture and growth of persons as well as plants evolved. The Seniors were tremendously appreciative of the efforts of the young people, and the youth expressed much interest in future "Time Outs". Westminster has sponsored previous service projects by children and youth and finds them interesting and attractive to the young.



Network 3

by Dana Winner

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Demand Reduction Task Force located in Southwest DC at 400 6th St., sponsors a program called "Network 3" which is a cooperative effort of the police department, the Board of Education's substance abuse program, and the Drug Enforcement Administration's demand reduction unit to reduce the number of youth initiating drug use. The DEA Special Agent responsible for the program is Michael J. Turner, a cousin of the late Maurice Turner, former DC Chief of Police.

In 1989, a Washington D.C. delegation of, primarily, educators, went to Orlando, Florida to attend a drug enforcement administration sponsored seminar on drug education activities programs. The District of Columbia's DEA-sponsored drug education activities program and demand reduction effort is known as "Network 3".

"Network 3" asks students to pledge a drug free life. The program helps them become aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol. It prepares students for "ground zero", the day when a student is offered drugs for the first time. The program is designed to help youngsters resist initial drug use by destroying the myth that using drugs is recreational.

The initial "Network 3" program in D.C. is located in three schools. There is one program in a NE high school, a junior high and an elementary school. One of the most important aspects of the program includes a pledge to a drug free life which is taken at an induction ceremony conducted by civic leaders. Another important part of the program is the role playing that helps prepare youth for encounters with drug dealers, in which they practice their response.

The Southwester Newspaper welcomes the DEA to DC and looks forward to hearing more good news from the "Network 3" program.

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**Southwest Fire Stations
May Lose Staffing**

An argument over how many firefighters should be on duty during any 24 hour period has the two fire stations in Southwest caught in the middle.

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton was successful in defending on the floor of the House of Representatives Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly's request to save \$3.4 million in the FY 94 budget by reducing the fire department staffing to 241 per 24 hour period.

The firefighters unions and Congressman Steny Hoyer of Prince Georges County wanted to keep 269 firefighters per 24 hour period. They argued that reductions could come from support divisions of the department.

Congresswoman Norton said on the House floor: "...the District dispatches 31 personnel to fires - more than double the national average. In the 19 largest cities, however, not 31 but only 19 personnel and 5 pieces of apparatus are dispatched. Even with the reduction in truck company staffing levels, the D C Fire Department's complement will be 29 personnel and 8 pieces of apparatus."

Congressman Hoyer replied: "Just in this last month ...there were 69 calls for the D. C. Fire Department to problems, actions, fires, whatever that occurred on Federal property... There is no Capitol Fire Department as there is a Capitol Police Department."

Mrs. Norton added that her grandfather was a firefighter and she knew there was featherbedding in the department.

The two fire stations in Southwest are at L and Half St. S. W. and 6th and E S.W.

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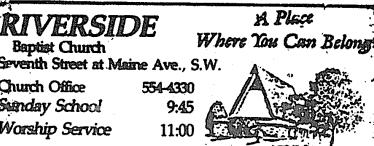
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WEEKDAYS: 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 and 12:10 p.m.

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People's Counsel Honors Southwest Citizen

On 30 July, 1993, the Office of People's Counsel (OPC) celebrated the 16th anniversary of the Consumer Utility Board and held its "Lay Community Advocate Appreciation Day" reception to celebrate District consumer participation in utility regulation during the past year.

This year the prestigious occasion, with official representatives from Mayor Kelly's office, Councilmember John Ray and others), was marked by a special award presentation to Mary Marzella Morrissey.

A long time resident of Southwest, Ms. Morrissey (known to family and close friends as Marzella) has lived with her daughter, Melanie ("Bridgette") and grandson Jonathan in the Channel Square Apartments at 4th and P Streets, S.W. for 10 years. Marzella was born in Duplin County, North Carolina--world-renown for its wine--and moved into the Washington DC area over 30 years ago. She's been a first hand witness of the events of the 60s, from the DC riots to the bell-bottom craze. She lived in Manassas at that time and says, "...my dad brought me to see the tents pitched on the mall, many of which the military had provided. We watched the march, the beginnings of "Resurrection City". People came from miles and miles away to witness change..."

Marzella has fond memories of that time period as well: "My aunt owned a house on Capitol Hill and a restaurant--Paradise Grill--in S.E. on 11th and I Streets where I spent most of my summers. It was great!"

She wasn't really exposed to the cruelty of racism or discrimination until she got her first job at 18 years of age, working for the U.S. Department of the Navy in one of the "Tempo" buildings. Marzella made this commute via trailway from Manassas to Washington, everyday. Her striving was probably even more

difficult because she was also raising Melanie, who has cerebral palsy, as a single parent. "My biggest dream was to see my daughter walk."

In an effort to increase her income, thereby providing better care for Melanie, Marzella went to work for IBM. However, she says, "Bridgette's situation got worse after I went to IBM. I had to make sure that Bridgette was in a good school". She needed a school that would provide a mainstream education to Bridgette, not classify her daughter as "mentally retarded" and educate her as such because Melanie is definitely not mentally retarded. Melanie was enrolled in Kramer Junior High. "Kramer Junior High was awful", says Marzella, noting that even the colors of the school halls, were green and black, were depressing, not to even mention the treatment that her daughter received. After attending PTA meeting after PTA meeting, making speech after speech, Marzella finally moved Bridgette to Kelly Miller in N.E. Washington, DC. "Kelly Miller was much better", says Marzella. Melanie's grades went up and the rest is history.

In March, Washington Gas Co. issued a proposal for an increase in the gas tax. This hike was somewhere in the neighborhood of 13.9 percent. Channel Square Apartments likewise sent notification of rent increases to tenants based on the proposed gas tax increase, listed as one of the reasons for the rent hike. "I thought that was terrible!", said Marzella. She called the HUD Hotline and made a complaint. Then she called the Washington Gas Company to find out when and where the next hearing was going to be held in the Southwest area and they said, the Frederick Douglas center in S.E. on Alabama Ave. in June". (!)

Ms. Morrissey continued saying, "I testified expressing concern for Channel Square Apart-

ment tenants, many testified against the gas company. My basic argument was the fact that I was laid off from IBM of the U.S. in last July, 1992. Others work for the U.S. Government and cannot expect any raises, and are asked to take furloughs and this country is in a recession! The Washington Gas Co. has warranted that the rate of increase proposed is to due the recession. This proposal wasn't even approved and the rent increase is based on a proposal only!

Ms Morrissey also wondered why HUD would allow a rent increase based simply on a proposal of a utility increase. She got her answer. "I received a letter from the Office of the People's Counsel thanking me for my time and presenting my arguments. Based on my testimony, the OPC assured me that this will not happen again [proposed utility increase used as cause for rent increase]." A certificate was awarded by Elizabeth A. Noel, the Mayor appointed Head of the Office of the People's Counsel, "in recognition of outstanding contributions in the advocacy of Utility Consumer interests".

Southwest could definitely use more citizens like Ms. Morrissey on their side. For those who want to become more involved she adds, that the "OPC will hear any issue--things done in unity can be resolved. The OPC will support them, but they must unify and go together as a group to resolve issues that involve them. When changes affect you, go out and seek help because there is somebody here to help them".

For more information, contact the Office of the People's Counsel at 1133 15th Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 or call (202) 727-3071, fax (202) 727-1014.

--Dana Heyliger

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